VZCZCXRO1118 OO RUEHMA RUEHPA DE RUEHDK #0540 1181645 ZNR UUUUU ZZH O 281645Z APR 09 FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2320 INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS DAKAR 000540

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W, AF/RSA, DRL/AE AND INR/AA PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>PGOV PREL SOCI PHUM PINR KDEM SG</u>
SUBJECT: SENEGAL TO SUPPORT U.S. CANDIDATE IN UN HUMAN

RIGHTS COUNCIL ELECTION

REF: STATE 36629

11. PolCouns met with the head of the Senegalese Foreign Ministry's UN Division, Mame Oumar Thiaw, on April 16th to request Senegalese support for the U.S. candidacy for a seat on the Human Rights Council per reftel. Thiaw welcomed the return of the United States to the UN Human Rights Council, opining that the participation of the United States would strengthen the Council. He also noted that the Senegal is running for re-election for the Council and expressed his hope that the United States would support Senegal's candidacy. Thiaw pointed out that there are several African candidates competing for a seat on the Council.

12. On April 24, the Senegalese Foreign Ministry informed the Embassy by dipnote that it intends to give its full support to the U.S. candidacy for one of the three seats open on the UN Human Rights Council. **BERNICAT**